

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner (1) provisionally rejected claims 529, 530, 538, 546, 566, and 578 under 35 U.S.C. § 101; and (2) objected to claims dependent upon canceled claims. Applicants amend the claims and respond as follows.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 521-615 are pending.

Claims 1-520, 529, 530, 538, 546, 566, 578, and 579 are canceled.

Claims 531-533, 535, 539, 543-545, 547, 551, 554, 556, 567, 569, 571, 574, 576, and 580 are currently amended.

II. Claims Provisionally Rejected Over Copending U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/548,934

The Examiner provisionally rejects claims 529, 530, 538, 546, 566, and 578 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 338, 339, 347, 355, 375, and 387 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/548,934.

Claims 529, 530, 538, 546, 566, and 578 were canceled in the Response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2008, that Response filed on June 13, 2008. Applicants believe the cancellation of these claims addresses the Examiner's provisional double patenting rejection.

III. Claims Objections

The Examiner objects to claims that depend from canceled claims. Claims 531-533, 535, 539, 543, 547, 551, 554, 556, 567, 569, 571, 574, 576, and 580 are currently amended such that each is now written in independent form and no longer depends from a canceled claim(s). Applicants believe the amendments to these claims place them in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the claim objections, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. No new matter is introduced by way of amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Final Office Action dated November 19, 2008

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has been fully addressed. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 03-2769 (2725-27006).

Respectfully submitted,

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